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## FACT SHEET

# Tijuana Master Plan for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

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### Why does Tijuana need a Master Plan?

***Rapid and Widespread Growth*** – The Tijuana/Playas de Rosarito area, located on the U.S.-Mexico border just south of San Diego, has experienced tremendous growth in recent years, with a local population of more than 1.2 million.

***Lack of Coverage*** – A comprehensive planning effort is required to plan for future growth and resolve current service problems, including lack of water and sewage service for some areas, and discharge of raw sewage into the Tijuana River.

### What is the Master Plan?

***Long-Term Plan*** – The *Master Plan for Potable Water and Wastewater Services for the Municipalities of Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico* (Master Plan) is a long-term plan that investigates alternatives for meeting water and wastewater needs for the Tijuana region. The Master Plan will address current needs and problems as well as future demands for water and wastewater service. It will develop short, mid, and long-range infrastructure projects (five, ten, and twenty-year time frames) that will allow for planned and sustainable development.

***Water and Sewage*** – The Master Plan will consider:

1. Potable water resources, including water reuse alternatives
2. Potable water infrastructure
3. Wastewater collection and conveyance
4. Wastewater treatment infrastructure, including pretreatment of industrial wastewater

### What agencies are involved?

***CESPT*** – The Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana, the local utility responsible for providing water and wastewater service, is the managing agency in the development of the Master Plan.

***Mexican Agencies*** – Other lead agencies in Mexico include the Comisión Nacional de Agua (CNA), Mexico's National Water Commission; and the Comisión Estatal de Agua (CEA), the State Water Commission for Baja California.

***EPA*** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing funding for the project and will provide general project oversight. Congress directed EPA to prepare a comprehensive Tijuana water/wastewater plan to study the infrastructure needs of the region.

***NADBank*** – The North American Development Bank is administering the grant funds provided by EPA and will separately fund an institutional capacity-building study.

### How will the Master Plan be developed?

***Scope of Work*** – CESPT, EPA, and NADBank developed Terms of Reference (TOR, equivalent to a scope of work) for the development of the Master Plan.

***Competitive Bid*** – The Master Plan is being developed by Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM), an international consulting firm selected through a competitive bidding process.

***Schedule*** – Work on the Master Plan began in January 2002. The Plan is scheduled for completion in early 2003.

***Technical Review*** – The technical review committee is comprised of CESPT, CNA, CEA, EPA, and NADBank. It will guide the project and coordinate, as appropriate, with other Mexican and binational agencies with pertinent expertise in regulations, standards, and international agreements that could affect the Master Plan alternatives.

***Public Input*** – Six public meetings (four in Mexico and two in the United States) will be held during the development of the Master Plan to explain the planning process solicit public input. The consultant is also meeting with agencies and organizations that possess information relevant to the project. Meetings with the public and interested parties also took place in 2001 to provide information and solicit input on the TOR.

***BECC Certification*** – The Master Plan alternatives will be developed with Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) certification in mind, including compliance with sustainable development criteria.

***Environmental Impact*** – Environmental impacts of

***Environmental Impact*** – Environmental impacts of the alternatives proposed in the Master Plan will be analyzed in accordance with the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Mexican laws and regulations.

### **How will the Master Plan be funded?**

***EPA*** – EPA is providing \$2 million in grant funding for the project.

***NADBank*** – NADBank expects to contribute \$500,000 to sponsor a separate study on improvements to CESPT's institutional framework (subject to approval by the Board of Directors).

***CESPT*** – CESPT is providing in-kind support for the project.

NADBank is administering all of the funds for the project, though the contract for services is between CESPT and CDM.

*For more information on the Tijuana Master Plan project, visit the EPA Region 9 U.S.-Mexico Border Web site at [www.epa.gov/region09/border/](http://www.epa.gov/region09/border/) or contact Wendi Shafir at (415) 972-3422 or [Shafir.Wendi@epa.gov](mailto:Shafir.Wendi@epa.gov).*